

~~CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY India/Tibet

DATE DISTR... 7 Nov 52

25X1C SUBJECT Ladakh (Kashmir) - Tibet Trade/Proposed Organization NO OF PAGES 4  
of 1950 Lohchag Mission

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANINGS OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1X

1. "The frontier district of Ladakh, the most mountainous north-eastern area of the Kashmir State, is in unique juxtaposition between India on one side and Central Asia and Tibet on the other. The foreign trade of Ladakh is with Sinkiang and Tibet; the life of Ladakhis depends a great deal on this unique carrying trade even though traders engaged in this trade are from either Hoshiarpur or Sinkiang. For Ladakhis carry on independent trade only with Tibet across Kashmir's border with the Changthang areas of northwest Tibet.
2. "Ladakh's trade with the Central Asia was a most flourishing intercourse till recently [1946 ?]. Some of the most precious items of Sinkiang's foreign trade came to Ladakh on their way to India and other countries of the world. Carpets and namias, gold and silver ingots and silk yarns found their way out of Sinkiang to world markets through Ladakh, one of the oldest land routes out of Central Asia over the Karakorum passes. Chakmen and Kham (superior and coarse khaddar) and cups and bangles of jade from Sinkiang constituted Ladakh's items of exports to Tibet. The recent political change in Sinkiang has brought this important trade to a dead end except for its stray flow by Yarkandi refugees. And most of the Hoshiarpuri traders have either already left for their homes or are sitting idle in Leh in lack of business. Charas, which was once the chief and most valuable item of this trade, slackened long ago with the spread of Russian influence in Eastern Turkistan and stopped completely after World War II.
3. "Ladakh's trade relation with Tibet is as important and old as her cultural and political connection. The aggregate volume and value of Ladakh's trade with Tibet has been flourishingly enormous heretofore in spite of the non-availability of regular statistics in this connection. For in the Tibetan countries even Lamas and lamaseries engage themselves in trade. The Lobjag Mission, Lhasa Zhungthso and private traders from Ladakh and Tibet have always profitably carried on this transaction for their countries. The following figures reveal how profitable

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

this intercourse has been both for matters of trade and goodwill between Kashmir and Tibet. After 1946, only the present year has the bearings of normality respecting administration in Ladakh. Years 1947-49 were a disturbed period owing to the Balti raid in these areas. Hence the non-availability of trade statistics for the period. The raid however brought in a new set of traders in the field from India. Lahulis, who came here as transporting agents for the Indian Army which came to the rescue of this country, have now settled here as permanent traders and seem to be taking the place of the Hoshiarpuris.

4. "Kashmir's chief items of export to Tibet, as revealed from the following figures, are apricots, saffron, shawls and a few Yarkandi commodities. Tibet's requirement of apricots is about 2,000 maunds annually, which Kashmir can conveniently afford to send to Tibet. For Ladakh's own production of apricots, from occupied Kargil (exclusive of Skardo tehsil) is about 2,500 maunds annually. As regards saffron and shawls, Kashmir can supply as much as needed by Tibet. The present setback in Ladakh's trade with Sinkiang does not substantially disturb Kashmir's trade with Tibet. For lot of fine khaddar goes to Tibet from Garhwal and Kumaon districts of northern India; and the people of Changthang (across the Kashmir border) whose main wearing apparel are from their indigenous wool, do not need it from Ladakh. And people of Central Tibet no more like the Yarkandi cups and bangles of jade as the stone used for these items these days is no longer of hard and superior quality. Kashmir can sell large size carpets and goods to Tibet, which bought these previously from Yarkand via Ladakh.
5. "Principal goods that Ladakh imports from Tibet, as revealed from the following figures, consist of China brick-tea, wool, pushmina and lambskins, etc. There is a marked fall in tea imports due to its non-supply from China. Ladakh's own supply of wool from the Kargyam, Pangong and Rupshu areas is only 1,000 maunds annually, not enough even for local needs. This item of Ladakh's imports from Tibet is very important for Kashmir's famous Wool Industry. The Karan Wool Mills Ltd., Srinagar, alone buys more than 3,000 maunds from Ladakh annually in normal times. Kashmir also needs quite a large quantity of the Tibetan lambskins and other furs for its Fur Industry. The import of Tibetan Khadbans (superior carpets) is meant for use in the private houses and lamaseries in Ladakh. Besides, this is also meant for re-export to Lahul and Zaskar.
6. "The Lobchag Mission which the Kashmir Government has been sending to Tibet from the old days, every 3rd year, for exchanging letters and presents of goodwill with the government in Lhasa is due this year (1950). The reciprocal Tibetan Mission - Lhasa Zhunghsang - has already visited Ladakh. The Lobchag Mission 1950 should be availed of for getting for the government of Kashmir the following data, other than the exchange of goodwill messages, so essential under present political trends in the Central Asian countries across the borders of the Kashmir State:
  - a. Information bearing on the strategic aspects of the Ladakh-Tibet (Changthang) border in view of the recent political change in Chinese Turkestan; information on the repercussions of the New China on Tibet; and information on present political trends in Tibet.
  - b. Report on deliberations by the proposed Lobchag Mission with the government of Tibet, if the government of Kashmir so desires, on the conduct of such missions between Ladakh and Tibet in future.
7. "The following personnel for the Lobchag-1950 is suggested for the consideration of the government:

Members

Nono Thsetan Phuntsog - Leader  
 Professor R. N. Rahul - Adviser  
 Khwaja Abdul Haque - Trader  
 Nono Kalon Rigzin Namgyal - Trader

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

ServantsCook  
Bearers

The duration of the proposed mission is planned to be six months. The mission if approved by the government should leave Leh in the first week of October 1950 at the latest so as to coincide with the Losar - the Tibetan New Year - when people from different corners of Tibet congregate in Lhasa for the annual festival and darshan of the Dalai Lama, the temporal and spiritual head of Tibet.

8. "Previous practice concerning the Lobjhag Mission used to be the granting of a loan of Rs. 10,000/- to a local trader who undertook to be an emissary for the letters and presents of the Government of Kashmir to the Government of Tibet. While in Tibet, this trader concerned himself only with private trade transaction; he was not permitted to have any discussion whatsoever with the Tibetan government for and on behalf of Kashmir government. This year it is essential, under the political situation along the northern borders of Kashmir, that the Mission Lobjhag is sent to Tibet on government level. Hence the need for change in the original nature and composition of the Lobjhag Mission for the year 1950. The two traders for this year, however, should jointly meet (as in the past) the expenses of the Mission. But they should no more be bearers of the letters and presents of the Kashmir Government to the Government of Tibet. This latter task should be assigned, this year as well as in future, to the leader of the mission. The non-government member in the capacity of adviser to the Mission should be remunerated for his services to the government. An honourarium of Rs. 1,200/- is suggested, inclusive of all other privileges enjoyed by members of such missions."

" LADAKH (KASHMIR) - TIBET TRADE1946 - EXPORTS

S. No.	Items of Export and Agencies	Quantity	Rate	Amount
I.	<u>Apricots:</u>			
	1. Lobjhak Mission	100 mds.	Rs. 40 per md.	Rs. 4,000/-
	2. Lhasa Zhungthsong	200 "	" " " "	Rs. 8,000/-
	3. Local Traders	200 "	" " " "	Rs. 8,000/-
II.	<u>Saffron/Kashmir:</u>			
	1. Lobjhak Mission	400 tolas	Rs. 2/8 = per tola	Rs. 1,000/-
	2. Lhasa Zhungthsong			
III.	<u>Shawls/Kashmir:</u>			
	1. Lobjhak Mission	20 pieces	Rs. 100/- per piece	Rs. 2,000/-
	2. Lhasa Zhungthsong			
IV.	Misc.: (Yarkandi cups and bangles of jade, khaddars, carpets and Namdas, etc.)			Rs. 12,880/-
	Grand Total:			Rs. 35,880/-

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 4 -

1946 - IMPORTS

S. No.	Items of Import and Agencies	Quantity	Rate	Amount
I.	<u>Brick Tea:</u>			
	1. Lobchak Mission )			
	2. Lhasa Zhungthsong )	100 boxes	Rs. 6/- per brick	Rs. 38,400/-
II.	<u>Wool:</u>			
	1. Lobchak Mission )			
	2. Lhasa Zhungthsong )	80 mds.	Rs. 100/- per md.	Rs. 8,000/-
	3. Local Traders )	4920 mds.	" " "	Rs. 4,92,000/-
III.	<u>Pushmina:</u>			
	Local Traders	2,000 mds.	Rs. 120/- per md.	Rs. 2,40,000/-
IV.	<u>Tosa Pushmina:</u>			
	Local Traders	2 mds.	Rs. 200/- per seer	Rs. 16,000/-
V.	<u>Tibetan Khabdang:</u>			
	1. Lobchak Mission )	20 pieces	Rs. 100 per piece	Rs. 2,000/-
	2. Lhasa Zhungthsong )			
VI.	<u>Misc:</u>			
	a) China Silk ) All	10 pieces	Rs. 30/- per yd.	Rs. 12,000/-
	b) Musk ) three			Rs. 600/-
	c) Lamb ) Agencies			Rs. 1,000/-
	Grand Total:			Rs. 8,10,000/-

- end -

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION